

5.

AN ENGLISH
PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE
TO THE
LATIN COMEDY OF IGNORAMUS;

WRITTEN BY

GEORGE RUGGLE,

FORMERLY FELLOW OF CLARE-HALL, CAMBRIDGE:

AND PERFORMED

BY MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY, BEFORE KING JAMES IN 1614,
AND 1615, AND, AT DIFFERENT TIMES, BY THE SCHOLARS
OF WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

WITH A PREFACE AND NOTES,
RELATIVE TO MODERN TIMES AND MANNERS.

By GEORGE DYER,

LATE OF EMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

L O N D O N :

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AN ENGLISH

PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE

TO THE

THE COMPANY OF FARMERS

AND

THE COMPANY OF MERCHANTS

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TO
JAMES MARTIN, M.P.

AS A TESTIMONY

TO THE

INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY

OF HIS CHARACTER,

AND AS AN EXPRESSION OF ESTEEM FOR

HIS FAMILY,

THE FOLLOWING

POEM

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.

THE once celebrated Latin Comedy of Ignoramus, and the ingenious author, are now so little known, that a short account of them, perhaps, may not be uninteresting.

In Hawkins's Edition of this play the following particulars may be read. " About the beginning of the year 1611, the University of Cambridge became engaged in a contest with the Mayor of the town and the Corporation, on the question, which of the two, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, or the Mayor of the

B

" Town,

“ Town, was entitled to precedence of the
“ other. The incident, that gave immediate
“ rise to this contest, which was, at length, ter-
“ minated in 1612, by a decision of the Privy
“ Council in favour of the Vice-Chancellor,
“ was this; that the then Mayor, Thomas
“ Smart, had at the Guild-hall of the town,
“ in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor,
“ claimed, and accordingly, seated himself in,
“ the superior place, as his due, which, it was
“ contended, belonged of right to the Vice-
“ Chancellor, but which, notwithstanding,
“ Smart continued to occupy, till he was for-
“ cibly removed from it by the Vice-Chancel-
“ lor’s attendants.

“ In the conduct of the dispute on behalf
“ of the Mayor and Corporation, one Brakyn,
“ a common lawyer, the then recorder of
“ Cambridge,

“ Cambridge, had shewn himself very active,
“ and might, probably, if he did not set it on
“ foot, at least, contribute to keep it alive.

“ This latter circumstance, it is presumed,
“ first introduced Mr. Ruggle to the notice and
“ acquaintance of the practisers of the common
“ law. So far, however, is certain, that it
“ suggested to him the thought, and induced
“ him to form a resolution of exposing it to
“ ridicule, in a representation before king
“ James, who had long been, and still was,
“ expected to pay a visit to Cambridge, and to
“ whose prejudices against lawyers such a sub-
“ ject was peculiarly suited.

“ As it was the intention of Mr. Ruggle to
“ ridicule the pedantry of the common law-
“ forms, and the cant and barbarous phraseo-

“logy of lawyers in their common discourse,
“it was necessary, that he should make himself
“acquainted with that dialect, in which almost
“the best among them were wont to write,
“and even to converse; a jargon, which could
“not but be grating and offensive to a
“classical ear. He, therefore, took more than
“ordinary pains to become acquainted with the
“technical terms of the profession, and to mark
“the abuse of them. Of all the intelligence of
“this kind, which he was by reading and con-
“versation with lawyers able to acquire, he
“has, with admirable dexterity, availed himself
“in the character of Ignoramus, who not only
“transacts business in Latin, that is to say, Law-
“Latin, “but woos in language of the Pleas and
“Bench:” and where words for this purpose
“failed him, and fail him they necessarily must,
“he supplies the deficiency by converting usual
“English

“English words into Latin, by altering their terminations.”

This comedy was twice acted before king James at Cambridge, by members of that learned University; and nothing could have been better conceived for the purpose of flattering his vanity: he was ambitious of being thought a patron of literature; invited the most fulsome adulations; valued himself not a little for his dexterity in Latin composition, and published a large volume of prose writings in the Latin language, of which some dissertations are sufficiently ridiculous: the reverend panegyrists of the times, however, addressed him as the SOLOMON of the age, as THE GREAT SCHOOLMASTER *of his realms.*

Ignoramus has, also, been performed at other

places, particularly at Westminster-school, by the King's scholars, in the years 1712, 1713, 1730, 1747. In 1712 a prologue and epilogue were written by that elegant Latin poet, VINCENT BOURNE, one of the ushers. They are printed in his *Poematia*. The prologue and epilogue spoken in 1747, and a poem addressed to the actors, may be seen in the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE for March 1748*.

Ignoramus has not been acted since that time, till the year 1794, when it was performed, under the direction of Dr. VINCENT, the present master of Westminster-school, with the universal applause of a learned and splendid audience.

The present prologue and epilogue have no

* See Hawkins's edition of Ignoramus.

connection with any of the preceding. Those in the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE I have never read; those in BOURNE'S POEMATIA not since I was a boy; and I retain not a single line of them in my recollection. So far as regards school-boys, the prologue must be received as a playful effusion, not as a serious satire: indeed, the latter part of the prologue only can be considered as serious or severe.

The comedy itself being a sharp satire against the forms of the common law, was received by KING JAMES as a favourable testimony to the loyalty of the Cantabrigians. That monarch's ambition was, for obvious reasons, to exalt the civil law, or the laws made by the supreme authority of the Roman emperors, on the ruins of the common law: for the latter he expressed the greatest contempt.

As the author of the present prologue and epilogue, I think it unnecessary to avow, that I possess few sentiments in common with KING JAMES. The object of the publication is not to express any dislike for our common law, and still less to insinuate a preference for the civil. The latter, in the hands of James I, and other of our monarchs, was a most powerful engine of arbitrary power. To the former we are indebted for the preservation of TRIAL BY JURIES, and many other of our civil liberties*. Though few, therefore, can think more meanly of many of the forms of our law than I, yet in this instance I mean not to obtrude my disapprobations: I avail myself of partial correspondencies: the author of Ignoramus made his comedy the vehicle of satire: a prologue and epilogue seemed naturally capable of a similar direction.

* See Bishop HURD's Moral and Political Dialogues.—Dialogue the fifth.

THE EPILOGUE is designed as a satire against systems, rather than persons, though the contrary may seem the case: The truth is, facts are often the expositors of opinions; and the value of systems may be ascertained by the characters and the conduct which they create. On this principle I act: I take the liberty more particularly to observe, that the reflections on bishops WARBURTON, HURD, HORSLEY, &c. are not the mere scintillations of a poetical fancy: their writings were professedly examined by me on a former occasion; and at a time when I was abstracted from the world, for the purpose of ascertaining their worth: what they possess of ability should have their appropriate commendation; but, why are we to be overawed by splendid names, by dignified titles, or by sanctimonious declarations? More particularly, when it is indisputable, that many *learned*, and some who

pass

pals for *religious* men, are frequently most clamorous, when least convinced; and reason with the greatest strength, when their faith is the weakest.

Oh! Truth! how hast thou been disguised and insulted by priests and politicians! Oh! Man! how art thou the dupe of avarice, ambition, and hypocrisy!

P. S. It may be proper to acquaint the reader that the following PROLOGUE was printed in the MORNING CHRONICLE, and from thence copied into other papers, at the time the Comedy was performing at Westminster-school. Considerable additions and improvements, however, will be found in the Prologue now published, and the notes are entirely new. No part of the Epilogue was ever published before.

PROLOGUS POSTERIOR*

IN IGNORAMUM, COMÆDIAM, REGIIS WESTMONASTERIEN-

SIBUS FELICITER ACTAM, MDCCXCIV.

OR,

THE LATTER PROLOGUE

ON THE LATIN COMEDY OF IGNOBAMUS, PERFORMED WITH
SUCCESS BY THE KING'S SCHOLARS, WESTMINSTER, IN 1794.

Loquitur musis iratis G. D.

Noverint universities te † capiam pro noddy—

HAIL Wisdom's golden age! e'en schoolboys grow
Wiser than teachers were some years ago.

* Prefixed to the Latin Comedy is a former Prologue, or PROLOGUS PRIOR, performed on king James's first visit to the University in 1614. The latter Prologue, entitled, PROLOGUS POSTERIOR, was spoken on the king's second visit in 1615.—The present is called PROLOGUS POSTERIOR, as being the last written.

† Vide Encomiaſticon Ignorami. The motto refers to the end of this prologue.

Hence,

Hence, Dulness! with thine iron offspring, hence!
See now return the golden age of sense!
Our grandfathers of genius had some store;
Some too our fathers; but their sons have more.
What trick so dextrous, or what scheme so great,
But we can, proudly daring, imitate?
Our modern bucks, and modern schoolboys too,
Burst forth in swarms, and prove our maxims true;
Schoolboys, like butterflies, gay-glittering rise,
First crawl on earth, but soon attempt the skies,
Disdaining to themselves to be confin'd,
See the bold striplings mimic all mankind!

Mark one, to whom kind nature deign'd dispense
Of wit a scruple, and a grain of sense,
Melting o'er gentle SHENSTONE with delight;
Till tir'd of fighting, he begins to write:
Of PHŒBUS born, he claims the poet's name,
And trusts the critic will support his claim:
"Begin, *Aonian maids*."—Do they refuse?
Hear him invoke his mistress for the muse.

"Oh!

" Oh! thou whose graces every heart control,
" CLOE! dear goddess of my prostrate soul;
" Nor rose, nor lily, with your beauty vies:
" Envy, ye stars, the brightness of her eyes!
" To thee the purest, tenderest strains belong,
" Ah! listen CLOE, to thy minstrel's song:
" And listen, shepherds, to a lover's lay;
" And listen, lambkins, while ye bleat and play."
Till tir'd of CLOE, soon he shifts the scenes,
Writes songs and rebuffs for magazines.

But, see! where yonder like a MARS is seen,
A youth of fire, and chivalrous of mien,
The man of honour, Sir, the man of action:
" Sir, as a *Gemman*, I claim satisfaction.
" Let your MENDOZAS * deal round *vulgar blows*,
" And for black eyes return a bloody nose;
" Practis'd in arms †, I dare a nobler strife,
" Nor lose my honour, though I lose my life."

* MENDOZA, the famous Jew-boxer.

† Alludes to the military exercise taught, by way of amusement, in many boarding schools:

And lo! Mock combats thicken all around;
 Spears clash on spears, and mimic trumpets sound;
 Rank above rank the pigmy squadrons close,
 Till Grecian warriors rout their Trojan foes*:
 Or now, (so loyal oft the schoolboy's heart,)
 Against TOM PAINE they take the zealous part,
 Till such, as late a score of Trojans flew,
 Put TOM to flight, and all his rebel crew†.

But see with curious eye, and serious face,
 The schoolboy take a more exalted place!

* With the wars of the Grecians and Trojans, described by HOMER and VIRGIL, schoolboys are usually well acquainted, and have frequently made them the subject of mock battles.

† At the time when the dispute about THOMAS PAINE and the friends of the English constitution ran high, it was taken up warmly by some schoolboys, who formed themselves into two hostile parties, and with wooden swords, pikes, &c. had some serious engagements.

And

And now, admiring WALKER'S* wiser plan,
 Ape the grave lecturer, as before the Man;
 With slender orrery in order prove,
 Where the sun centers, and the planets move;
 The chemist's art, in crucibles, convey;
 Or, with light cork-balls, nature's laws display;
 Talk of fix'd air with BEDDOES'† easy grace,
 Or wild electric fire, like FRANKLIN‡, trace.

Ye book-learn'd pedagogues, of solemn brows!
 To whom, as custom leads, our reason bows,
 Who with birch-law *ten parts of speech* dispense,
 And every rule, but that of common sense;
 Why fowl, grave doctors, with polemic frown,
 And swear the world is turning upside down,

* A. WALKER has delivered in various parts of the kingdom a course of public lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy, viz. on magnetism, mechanics, chemistry, pneumatics, hydrostatics, electricity, fortification, optics, the use of the globes, and astronomy. In some schools it became a favourite amusement to give lectures in imitation of the philosopher.

† Dr. BEDDOES.

‡ Dr. FRANKLIN.

Because

Because VIGERUS * is not worship'd still,
 And some may even question † WALKER's skill?
 Hoffman, Henninius ‡, now neglected lie;
 (Few read them, but dull things, as you and I)
 As though dame SCIENCE should not walk your schools,
 And none should enter there, but GRAMMAR RULES.
 Oh ! see (and Time will all things bear away)
 Your parts of speech take wing § and fly away ;

* VIGERUS de Idiotismis Græcis, with notes by Hoogaveen.

† Not A. WALKER the lecturer, but WALKER, who wrote a book on English particles.

‡ Two grammarians and critics.

§ JOHN HORNE TOOKE's celebrated work entitled *Επεα Πτεροει-
 ρα*, or, *The Diversions of Purley*, goes to establish this doctrine, "that
 " in English, and in all languages, there are only *two sorts* of words
 " which are necessary for the communication of our thoughts,"
 or in other words, in opposition to the notion of there being *eight*
 parts of speech, that there are only two, viz. the noun and the
 verb.

BUSBIES

BUSBIES * and LILLIES † shall expire with years ;
 E'en HERMES NOW UNMASK'D ‡ a dunce appears.
 These young PHILOSOPHERS ! then let them pass ;
 And be not like old BALAAM with his asfs :
" Hast thou not been mine asfs this many a day ?" —
 Left some good angel should obstruct your way,
 And brandishing his sword of logic high,
 Should cleave you down for boobies, and ye die.

* DR. BUSBY, the celebrated master of Westminster-school, wrote a Latin Grammar for the use of the school.

† LILLY's Latin Grammar, well known in public schools,

‡ The Principles of HERMES, or a Treatise on Philosophical Grammar, a work of equal authority almost with Law and Gospel, till attacked by the author of the DIVERSIONS OF PURLEY, have been attacked again with infinite wit by CAPTAIN BROWNE, whose HERMES UNMASKED, " attempts to show, that there is in reality " but *one* sort of word, and that there is no distinction originally between the noun and verb."—i with *all* schoolmasters, *some* politicians, and as *many* grammarians and metaphysicians, as have common sense and humility, would read HERMES UNMASKED, or the Art of Speech, founded on the association of words and ideas.

Once more: behold our sprightly schoolboy train
At Covent-garden, and at Drury-lane!
As KEMBLE prompts, they learn to spout and play,
Their theme sweet Willy Shakespear all the day;
SIDDONS, they grant, should have the honour due,
But still they claim themselves some honours too.
Then with mouth screw'd, low voice, and rolling eye,
"To be, or not to be," they whine, and die;
Then live again, and rave with Richard's force,
"A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!"

When youths of WESTMINSTER play comic parts,
They win the critics ears, and ladies' hearts;
They urge, at least, a modest claim to these,
And reckon on your praise as sure to please:
Should some grave doctor shake his heavy skull,
(For e'en professors may be wondrous dull,)
Eke little arguments from leaden brains,
And for false Latin toil with KIPLING's * pains;

* Dr. KIPLING, deputy professor of divinity in the university of Cambridge.

With glaring blunders mar a splendid page *,
Then turn PROMOTERS † to divert their rage;

Should

* A celebrated Greek M. S. consisting of the Four Gospels, and Acts of the Apostles, was presented to the University of Cambridge, by the famous reformer Theodore Beza. The University long kept it from the public eye, but, at length, in 1791, agreed that it should be published in a *Fac Simile*. Dr. K. was appointed the editor, and received a large premium for *his* labour, (if I do not use an improper pronoun). New types were formed, a fine paper wove, and the most magnificent *Fac Simile* ever published, made its appearance, under the sanction of the University! E prelo Academico, Impensis Academiae! Behold, at length, the Prolegomena, or Preface, consisting of but 28 pages! The only part of the work, that is the proper subject of criticism. One of the literary journals, that treated this preface with great candour, was compelled to speak of it in the following manner.

“ The literati of Cambridge have taken the liberty of amusing
“ themselves with Dr. KIPLING’s Latinity; and we must confess,
“ that his style is far from elegant, sometimes not even correct;
“ it favours too much of the English idiom to please those whose
“ ears have been accustomed to pure Latin writers. We sometimes
“ meet with the subjunctive mood for the indicative; and very
“ often the indicative for the subjunctive; sometimes one word
“ occurs for another; the substantive is found in the wrong case,
“ and the participle in a different gender from its antecedent, &c.”

Should such a doctor sneer, or damn the play,
 Schoolboys would scout him in the face of day;
 Would turn the doctor's censure to their praise;
 Give him the fool's cap, and demand the bays;
 Then gently drop in the professor's ear,
 " Pray know, good Sir, you're not professor here;

Instead of producing examples of bad Latinity agreeably to a hint in *THE POET'S FATE*, (for two pages of notes may be better employed), I content myself with presenting the reader with the following admirable epigram on the subject extracted from the *MORNING CHRONICLE*.

Paginibus nostris dicitis mihi menda quod infunt;

At non in recto vos puto ego esse viros.

Nam primum, jurat, (cetera ut testimonia *omitto*),

MILNERUS, quod sum doctus ego et sapiens.

Classicus haud es, aiunt. Quid si non sum? In sacrosancta

Non *ullo* tergum verto Theologia.

These ingenious lines are descriptive of Kipling's blunders: it is impossible to translate them: the *principal* blunders are marked with Italics.

† Dr. KIPLING was promoter or principal accuser at the celebrated trial of WILLIAM FRIEND, Tutor and Fellow of Jesus College, for an account of which see *THE POET'S FATE*.

Here

" Here take your grammar, Sir, and con your rules,
" Then off to CAMBRIDGE, and divert * the schools.
" Prologum tu? Atque Latinum etiam?—Tu? †
" We by our prologue meant to laugh at you;
" We 'midst our friends act IGNORAMUS here,
" You, doctor, on the world's wide theatre."

* Dr. KIPLING has long *diverted* both old and young by the manner in which he conducts himself as *Moderator* in the Divinity schools at Cambridge.

† " You write a Prologue ! And in Latin too ? " The Latin line in the text is borrowed from the First Prologue to Ignoramus ; and applies properly, I conceive, to the author of *Prolegomena* to the *Fac Simile* of Beza's manuscript.

EPILOGUS POSTERIOR

IN IGNORAMUM, COMÆDIAM REGIIS WESTMONESTER-
SIENSIBUS FELICITER ACTAM.

OR,

THE LAST EPILOGUE

TO IGNORAMUS, A COMEDY, PERFORMED WITH SUCCESS BY
THE KING'S SCHOLARS, WESTMINSTER.

Loquitur musis Iratis G.D.

ACTORS, well-play'd; no face, but wears a smile;
Accept our plaudits, and repose awhile;
Content, that ye have charm'd the critic's ears,
Right reverend prelates, and most noble peers:
The laurels earn'd so well, they freely give,
And pray, that IGNORAMUS long may live,
And wish, as every Briton might wish too,
That IGNORAMUS only liv'd with you.

But

But oh! where'er we turn our eyes, we see
 Some clam'rous blockhead, full as dull as he ;
 Some drunken statesman, or some courtly cit,
 Some pensioned coxcomb, or some hackney'd wit,
 Smooth academics, licens'd to be dull,
 Some rev'rend BILLY DOODLE, priest, and fool.

I. When gen'rous Alfred sway'd the British throne,
 The law was justice, and no JUDGE a drone :
 That honest men no sordid judge might fear,
 Lo! forty knaves were tuck'd up in a year :
 Had IGNORAMUS dar'd to shew his head,
 The babbling booby had not earn'd his bread :
 But now, far other manners, other times!
 How groans the gallows! yet how light the crimes *!

And

* " It is an abuse that justices and their officers, who kill people
 " by false judgment, be not destroyed as other murderers, which
 " king ALFRED caused to be done, who caused forty-four justices
 " in one year to be hanged as murderers for their false judgment."
 MIRROR OF JUSTICES.

Of

And some, though cold of heart, or flow of brains,
With honours bend, and riot with their gains.

Say,

Of these forty-four the following are submitted to the reader's serious consideration.

CASE III.

“ He hanged CADWINE, because that he judged HACKWY to
“ death, without the consent of all the jurors, and whereas he stood
“ upon the jury of twelve men; and because three would have saved
“ him against the nine, CADWINE removed the three, and put others
“ upon the jury, upon whom HACKWY put not himself.

CASE VI.

“ He hanged ATHULF because he caused COPPING to be
“ hanged before the age of one and twenty years.

CASE XVIII.

“ He hanged ARNOLD because he saved BOYLIFFE, who robbed
“ the people by colour of distresses, whereof some were by selling
“ distresses, some by extortion of fines, as if betwixt extortion of
“ fines, releasing of tortuous distresses, and robbery, there were
“ difference.

CASE

Say, dost thou seek the smoothest path to fame,
The splendid ermine, and a noble name?

Ask,

CASE XXIII.

"He hanged the **SUITORS** of **CIRENCESTER**, because they kept
"a man so long in prison, that he died in prison, who would have
"acquitted himself by foreigners, that he offended not feloniously.

CASE XXXVIII.

"In his time **BUTTOLPHE** lost his view of frank pledges, because
"he charged the jurors with other articles than those which be-
"longed to the view, and amerced people in personal actions, where
"one was not to be amerced by a pecuniary punishment. And,
"accordingly, he caused mortal rewards to criminal judges, for
"wrongful mortal judgments; and so he did for wrongful judg-
"ments venial: Imprisonment for wrongful imprisonments, and
"like for like, with the other punishments; for he delivered **THEL-**
"WELD to prison because he judged men to prison for an offence
"not mortal."

These Cases are extracted from that curious old book on the
Laws of England, entitled, *The MIRROR OF JUSTICES*, Chap. v.
Sect. i. **ANDREW HORNE** the author, adds, "In lesser offences
"he did not meddle with the judgments, but disinherited the jus-
"tices, and removed them according to the points of those statutes in
"all points where he could understand that they had passed their ju-
"risdiction,

Ask, how grim T——* wriggled into state?
 How sneaking L—— figured with the great?
 If far too wise, or grave, to pass for fool,
 Go, crouch like E—, † and be some statesman's tool:

Or

“ jurisdiction, or the bonds of their delegacy, or of their commission,
 “ or had concealed fines for amercement, or other thing which be-
 “ longed to the King; or had released or increased any punishment
 “ contrary to law, or procured the exercising or pleading without
 “ warrant, either by the property, by warrant of writ, or of a plaint
 “ of the possession, or e contra, or, in the venial actions by words
 “ of felony, or e contra, or had sent to no party a transcript of his
 “ plea at the journey, or any of the parties wrongfully grieved, or
 “ done any other wrong in disallowance of a reasonable exception
 “ of the parties, or to the judgment.

“ In his time law was hastened from day to day, so that above
 “ fifteen days there was no default nor effoin adjournable.”

* In some characters great sternness and great meanness can unite.

† By way of contrast, let a few cases in our own time be considered: the first is, the case, noticed in the second edition of *THE COM-*

PLAINTS

Or plod, like prudent K———*, slow and sure,
 Then soothe the great, and trample on the poor;
 Nor deem, too modest, this an arduous part,
 But, weigh an A———'s head, and B———'s heart.

2. Mark next the MEN, who guide the helm of STATE,
 Mid rocks of danger, and mid storms of fate.

Oh! BRITAIN, once in Fame's bright list enroll'd,
 Ere curs'd with pride of power, and lust of gold:

PLAINTS OF THE POOR PEOPLE OF ENGLAND, where it is observed, that a few years ago eighteen or twenty young men suffered death at the same time, the eldest of whom was not above twenty! Page 29. Second Edition.—Another is that of Hastings, who was on his trial nearly eight years! In the reign of Alfred too the sentence passed upon WINTERBOTHAM, and the sentences of the Scotch judges on Muir, Palmer, Gerrald, &c. would have been differently estimated. These sentences will be rejudged by posterity, and the systems under which the judges acted be properly characterized.

* Alludes to the abridgment of the Rules of the King's Bench.

Ere wild with conquest, and of glory vain,
 Thy commerce only bounded by the main;
 When AUSTRIA, proud and treacherous, now reviles;
 And SPAIN, that us'd to crouch, contemptuous smiles;
 When FORTUNE, thy protectress now no more,
 Quits for some happier realms thy hated shore;
 When fair COLUMBIA, bright in youthful charms,
 To thee no longer spreads her duteous arms:
 And FAME, once boastful of a favourite name,
 Now hastes thy rivals glories to proclaim;
 When frugal arts should war's dread waste supply,
 And prudence give what fortune may deny:
 Where now thy statesmen? —

Low at Pleasure's shrine,

Staggering with woe their country, they with wine.*

And

* At the time when a question of the last consequence to the interests of this country was to be discussed in the House of Commons, two great statesmen made their appearance there in a state of intoxication. Many admirable satirical epigrams on the occasion

And tell, oh! MORGAN, skill'd in ways of pence,
How wide our statesmen's schemes from commo-
sense! *

P—TT, when a deep-tax'd BRITON dared to fret,
Talk'd of finance; paid off the nation's debt;
Talk'd loudest, where the least was understood;
Paid off, though sucking still his country's blood;
Good-natur'd H——Y, art thou wise and true?
Out, INDIAN budget, I appeal to you :

sion appeared in THE MORNING CHRONICLE, from which the following is selected.

I cannot see the Speaker, Hal, can you?

Not see the Speaker? Damme, I see two.

* See the matter put in the clearest light by that able financier WILLIAM MORGAN, in a pamphlet entitled, FACTS addressed to the serious attention of the People of Great Britain, respecting the Expence of the War, and the state of the National Debt, together with additional facts by the same author.

The subject is still further elucidated in an APPEAL to the People of Great Britain on the present alarming state of the Public Finances.

These

These skilful statesmen told old England's hogs*,
 That Britain's lion soon would gorge the frogs:
 Old England's hogs suppos'd them fools—but half;
 Till roar the FROGS, and LION turns to CALF.

3. Go then, for 'tis thy country's hour of need,
 Go, for HEREDITARY WISDOM plead:
 For erst thy country challeng'd fairer fame;
 And LORD and DUKE were something more than name;
 Had something else to do than strut and stare,
 In council generous, or renown'd in war †:

But

* Those paltry fellows, *Plebeians*, the swinish multitude.

† Among the northern nations, nobility was formerly not merely an hereditary character, but connected with official employment, or military valour. I have, therefore, ventured to say in my "Enquiry into the Nature of Subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles," page 143, second edition, "That the ancient British nobles were * men, ennobled by their virtue, and fitted by their talents for the most "honourable stations." See Sidney on Government, b. i. chap. i. Sidney judiciously observes, chap. iii. sect. xxxvii. speaking of

D

the

But now the veriest dunce may be a lord,

And even ————— wears a sword.

Go ponder ———s wit, and ———s grace,

And trace the lines of pretty ———s face.

Survey yon son of Mars ! how smooth his brow !

No CLEMENT COTREL made a neater bow ;

Not beauteous DERBY moves with easier grace ;

Not JORDAN shews a prettier school-boy face.

Unapt to learn, unwilling to obey,

These martial youths were whipp'd the other day ;

Were whipp'd from school ; then sigh'd a last adieu :

This struts a midshipman in buff and blue ;

the order of nobles under the ancient government of England, as follows : “ Those who were truly noblemen, are now driven into the “ same interest and name with the commons, and by that means “ increase a party, that never was, and never can be, united to the “ court.” See further on this subject two learned works, SELDEN’S *Titles of Honour*, and SPELMANNI *Reliquiæ* : on Feuds and Tenures, page 13.

That

That shines in scarlet finery at the ball,
Or ogles Leonilla through the Mall*.

Lion of England! let me stroke thy jaws,
Or play, like POMPEY †, with thy harmless paws,
Or curl in wanton wreaths thy flaxen mane,
Gentlest of creatures thou, in G——s reign.

But *noble* Lords, Sir, I admit are wise:
But who's a NOBLE Lord? And what his size?
Two eyes MUST he possess? Or, *may* he blink?
And *must* a *noble* Lord know how to *think*?

* Young noblemen who have seen no service, are frequently advanced to high rank, while many a valiant fellow grows old in the service, and is left to the mercy of Providence. A few years ago great notice was taken in the public prints of the M—— of H——'s advancement; but things of this kind occur, I had like to have said, every day. See this subject illustrated in the COMPLAINTS of the Poor People of England. Chap. iv. 5.

† In one of the lion's dens in the tower, is a young dog, that lives as inmate, and plays, without the least injury, with an old lion.

Fair as the morn, and blushing as the rose,
 Lo! to the nursery gentle —— goes,
 Love in her heart, and megrims in her head,
 To take her pretty little lord from bed;
 But first she cries, "My lord, pray, piddle, come,
 " Piddle, I say, or I will whip your b——:
 " But since,—there—take that naughty, naughty boy—
 " Ne'er, ask again your —— for a toy."
 Cease, —— cease to treat that babe with scorn*,
 For know that piddling babe is *nobly* born!

4. CHURCHMEN you think are *sacred*—be they so—
 Witchcraft was sacred, some few years ago.
 I grant the CHURCH as sacred as you please,
 Sacred her rubricks, sacred her decrees;
 Her articles all sacred, all divine,
 I touch not one of all the *thirty-nine*.

* The celebrated reformer KNOX, tutor to KING JAMES, valued himself on having whipped *the Lord's Anointed*.

But should some fools, and fools are often grave,
With solemn cant affect my foul to save;
With cheeks as fat as brawn, as soft as down,
With nothing rev'rend, save the band and gown,
With eyes so full, they cannot hold a tear,
And heads that never ached, except with beer;
Whose slender knowledge tells them to obey,
Dull idle souls, who only preach and pray;
Preaching, what flow'd from T——r's* venal pen,
Praying unheard by either Gods or men:

Should I, perchance, as I have often seen,
Meet some such boobies, it would raise my spleen:
Yes, I would claim, as I have claim'd before,
As fair a right to laugh, as you to snore.

* A D.D.—Sermon-vender to the clergy. The sermons are printed in the pale *ITALIC* Character, and, at a moderate distance, cannot be distinguished from hand-writing: To be purchased at the moderate price of one shilling each Sermon.

Peace on the Reverend head, however dull;
Go, honest man, enjoy your empty skull.

“ That *Reverend* men may dream, you grant for once,
“ But may the MAN IN LAWN be called a dunce ?

A man in lawn, Sir, is a man of straw,
A mere John Nokes, or Johnny Styles in law :

Who means to climb, must not put out his eyes :
Sir, I concede ; a b — p must be wise,
I grant, a candid creature as you please,
That L ——— th * could judge with taste, and write
with ease :

* Bishop L ——— th, author of the learned and much admired LECTURES ON THE HEBREW POETRY. Some of his more elaborate and elegant odes I have taken considerable pains to clothe in an English poetical dress, more particularly the Triumphant Ode of the Children of Israel on the Downfall of the King of Babylon, and shall publish them on a proper occasion ; a circumstance, which I mention, in order to shew, that of L ——— th as a man of taste and learning I cannot think with indifference. But these principles, and that science, which improve the order of society, are uppermost in my contemplation ; in comparison of which, many of the pursuits of men of letters, if not injurious to public happiness, as they sometimes are, tend but little to public utility.

That

That W——— * could church with state combine,
 And prove his Hebrew Legate all divine ;
 A politician of Right Reverend size,
 Not S——r † look'd with more dissecting eyes:

* The celebrated author of Alliance between Church and State. I have taken great pains to expose the sophistry of this laboured and ingenious performance in another publication: as also the fallacy of H——r's ECCLESIASTICAL POLITY. The latter is the production of a master workman; the author has obtained the title of THE JUDICIOUS, and was known in his day by that of Malleus Hæreticorum, the Hammer of Heretics. On an impartial examination of the principles of these two writers I formerly observed, that "Hooker was both a divine and politician, Warburton a mere politician; that if self-sufficiency and arrogance tarnish the lustre of characters, the latter is not entitled to that respect which candour will delight to pay the former amidst all his mistakes." See the third part of the second edition of an Inquiry into the Nature of Subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles.

This gigantic W———n was likewise the author of a famous work entitled the DIVINE LEGATION OF MOSES.

† A man educated a dissenter: but he rose to be A———p of C———y, and filled his high station with all the prudence of a churchman, and all the dexterity of a politician.

A huge

A huge church hammer to dissenting foes,
 Not H——r * dealt around such deadly blows;
 With skill so dubious could a model raise,
 That P——y †, much admiring, scarce can praise,
 Though GENERAL EXPEDIENCE all things suits,
 Makes princes tyrants, and leaves christians brutes.

* The learned R——d H——r, author of The ECCLESIASTICAL POLITY, as mentioned in a former note.

† A——n P——y, author of a learned work that has procured him great celebrity, and a liberal provision, entitled MORAL and POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. The only part of the performance that I have read, relates to religious establishments. The system of ALLIANCE raised by bishop W——n, by laying claim to the PRINCIPLES of LIBERTY, impeaches the credit of H——r's ECCLESIASTICAL POLITY; P——y, by considering a religious establishment merely as a SCHEME of INSTRUCTION, weakens the system of ALLIANCE between CHURCH and STATE; and the doctrine of GENERAL *Expedience*, the basis on which P——y erects his religious establishment, is ably confuted in Gisborne's Principles of Moral Philosophy Investigated, and briefly applied to the constitution of civil Society. In short, these several systems are mere church-bladders, blown into consequence by ingenious sophistry.

H——d * too can write a pretty classic style,
 Instruct his sovereign, and make C——e smile;
 Could

* Bishop of Worcester, author of Sermons on Prophecy, of Dialogues on the English Constitution, and of a Commentary and Notes on Horace's Art of Poetry. The Dialogues on the English Constitution have been very much and very justly admired: they breathe the purest spirit of liberty, and discover considerable ingenuity. But Mr. H—d, and bishop H—d, are very different characters. Mr. H—d, Fellow of Emanuel College, Cambridge, and Minister of St. Andrew's the Little, was thought a proper person to be advanced to a bishopric; but the abdication of certain obnoxious principles was to be the condition. The first edition of H—d's Dialogues, therefore, differs widely from subsequent editions.

——Quantum mutatus ab illo

Hecore!

The power of conversion, which the air of a court possesses, might easily be exemplified in the history of other bishops, ancient and modern; but "tell it not in Gath:" those wicked dissenters will say, "that Episcopacy is nothing but a state trick:" as a writer who discovers no small share of penetration in these matters seems not only strongly to suspect, but goes very near proving. See ILLUSTRATIONS OF PROPHECY, vol. i. lately published.

I have only to add, that bishop Hurd's Sermons were among
 the

Could change his politics with wondrous skill,

As the guts grumble, when you take a pill.

H——y * can bully for the church, 'tis true,

(And other parsons bully for him too)

the first publications that shook my confidence in a certain community; and that his Dialogues raised such a tumult of liberty in my breast!—Heaven knows when it will subside, or where it will terminate!

* B——p of R——r. Were I possessed of stronger testimonies to the sincerity of H——y's faith, than it has been my fortune to obtain, I would still say, that his acumen in the interpretation of that book which he affects at least to believe, is very inconsiderable; and that if not a disingenuous believer, he is a sorry expositor. On what grounds this is said may be seen at large in the Appendix to the second edition of *my Inquiry into the NATURE OF SUBSCRIPTION to the THIRTY-NINE ARTICLES*, p. 361, &c. The reflection with which I there close my observations, I subjoin here: “Nor is it surprising, that a man, who had not attended to this controversy (as he himself must recollect confessing to an eminent scholar) till within a little time of his engaging with Dr. Priestley, should sink at last into the dregs of enthusiasm.” I allude to a sermon published by b——p H—— a few years before: though an acquaintance with his public conduct, and with *certain transactions in his own diocese*, would incline me to alter the word enthusiasm for one not so gentle. — On posterity, bishop H——y will have no claims; and the manner in which he will be held up in some records will probably be this: ONE H———Y, A CHURCH BULLY.

Can

Can write, as bishop never wrote before,
Can broach, and boast it, crude unstudied, lore:
Could laugh at priests, and laugh at Jesus too;
Then put a mitre on, and swear them true;
All this I grant, but when in serious mood,
I ask, what makes a nation great and good?
And view some pretty polish'd Babel rise,
To lift one puny babbler to the skies;
Not the bright skies, where shines un sullied fame,
But skies, where bishops trump each others name;
Then taught, that many a man of wondrous skill
May, after all, be IGNORAMUS still,
Anxious I cry, Oh! gracious Heaven, dispense
To Britain love of truth and common sense.

Yet touch not, Muse, the tender heads of kings:
For, know, that royal nobs are sacred things;
At them let merry PETER * draw his pen,
Treat royal nobs, like nobs of vulgar men;

* PETER PINDAR: nobody need be informed how free he makes with certain great personages.

At them let skilful DAVID aim his sling * ;

I'd rather meet GOLIAH, than a king.

Go, wiser, safer, thou, lampoon JOHN BULL,

And run no risk in calling him a fool.

I grant, that John is made of gentle stuff,

Too much a fool, and yet not fool enough,

Boasting of freedom still, and still a slave;

Thus many a faint oft proves an arrant knave.

Who mourns his folly, may in time grow wise;

Who ———

[N. B. *The speaker runs off the stage, without finishing the Epilogue.*

† DAVID WILLIAMS, author of Lectures on Political Principles, and various other ingenious publications, not more favourable to the high claims of prerogative, than to those of the priesthood.

THE END.